



AUGUSTA ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

James H. Hill III, Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Tameka Allen, Administrator

**FROM:** James H. Hill III, Animal Services Director

**DATE:** May 2, 2025

**RE:** Animal Control Ordinance Revisions

**CC:** Charles Jackson, Deputy Administrator

**BACKGROUND**

Earlier this year, the Augusta Commission directed the Augusta Animal Services Department to submit recommended city ordinance revisions to address multiple objectives. These included:

- 1) General Language Revisions
- 2) Mitigation of nuisance cat population
- 3) Measures to address irresponsible pet owners
- 4) Recommend changes regarding the Animal Control Board

Below are the specific changes that the Augusta Law Department has recommended based upon the current challenges of the Animal Services Department:

**GENERAL ORDINANCE LANGUAGE**

- Provide recommendations on general ordinance language where applicable
- Provide recommendations regarding "Stray hold periods"

**MITIGATION OF NUISANCE CAT POPULATION**

- Ability to manage nuisance cats and humanely dispose where appropriate

**EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS IRRESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS**

- Officers given more discretion when assessing situations involving dangerous dogs.
- Allows Animal Services Director ability to petition court for elimination of dog ownership
- Mandatory microchip on 1<sup>st</sup> impound
- Mandatory spay/neuter on 2<sup>nd</sup> impound

**ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD**

- Recommendation on the restructuring of the Animal Control Advisory Board

**NEXT STEPS**

Along with the enclosed agenda item and draft ordinance, I respectfully request that you submit this communication to the Augusta Commission for committee review on May 13, 2025.